



PATENT APPLICATION

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are enclosed.

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 5,387,542
(2) U.S. Patent No. 5,981,934
(3) Japan 5-109638
(4) Japan 5-136062

References (3) and (4) were discussed at page 1 of the specification and might be deemed pertinent for the reasons given there. Reference (1) is believed to be an English language counterpart of reference (4). English-language abstracts for references (3) and (4) are also enclosed.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. Applications:

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>FILING DATE</u>	<u>ATTNY DOCKET NO.</u>
09/250,243	2/16/99	03500.013325.
09/983,427	10/24/01	03500.015893.

A copy of each cited Application is enclosed. It is believed that foreign counterparts to these U.S. applications might have already been published, and these published counterparts might themselves be available as prior art.

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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